



Human Trafficking bill signing

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Tuesday, April 22, 1:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Conference Room

Good afternoon, everyone.

Thank you all for being here today as we take another significant and crucial step in our ongoing fight to combat human trafficking in Arizona.

The legislation I will proudly sign into law today addresses one of my highest legislative priorities of this session, and as governor.

House Bill 2454 strengthens current state human trafficking laws by increasing penalties against individuals involved in this atrocious crime ... and strenghtening protections for those harmed by human trafficking.

The goal of this legislation is to further discourage criminals from inflicting this horror on the people of Arizona – particularly our children.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to my Human Trafficking Task Force, whose contributions laid the foundation for this new law.

I am especially grateful to co-chairs Cindy McCain and Gil Orrantia for their dedicated leadership in this important effort.

And, of course, I also want to thank Representative Eddie Farnsworth, Representative Coleman and Senator Driggs for their hard work and support of this critical measure.

While this is a major step in our fight to eliminate this modern-day slavery in Arizona, our work is not done.

We must continue to monitor and promote public awareness of this serious problem. We must make sure that the victimized and vulnerable know how to seek help. And we

must equip all Arizonans with the tools and knowledge to recognize and report these crimes.

Earlier this year, I established the Arizona Human Trafficking Council, which will oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the prior Task Force, make further recommendations, and raise awareness throughout our state.

The signing of HB 2454 is a proud and significant day for Arizona -- particularly for those who have been personally affected by this terrible crime.

But we must ... and will ... remain active, vigilant, and ready to act in order to end this evil in Arizona.

Now, I will sign HB 2454 into law.

With that, I'd like to ask our Task Force co-chairs – Cindy McCain and then Gil Orrantia -- to say a few words.

I want to thank ALL of you once again for helping to craft and support this crucial legislation.

You've made a marked difference in the lives of many of our fellow Arizonans.

Now we're happy to take a few questions on this.